

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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P R 052230Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6195

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6294

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PE

SUBJECT: APRA LEADERS ARRESTED

1. APRA SOURCE INFORMED EMBASSY THAT POLICE ARE IN PROCESS OF ROUNDING UP APRA LEADERSHIP. SOURCE SAID POLICE HAD JUST ENTERED HOME OF APRA CHIEFTAIN ARMANDO VILLANUEVA AND HAD ALREADY ARRESTED APRA CO-GENERAL SECRETARY LUIS NEGREIROS VEGA (THERE ARE SEVEN CO-GENERAL SECRETARIES IN APRA) AS WELL AS CARLOS ENRIQUE FERREYROS, HEAD OF LIMA BAR ASSOCIATION. SOURCE HAD NO INFORMATION ON OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE OF POLICE ACTION. ANOTHER APRA SOURCE JUST TOLD ACTING DCM THAT PARTY HOPES TO ARRANGE MEETING WITH MILITARY TO DETERMINE MEANING OF GOP ACTION.

2. COMMENT: ARREST OF APRA LEADERS WOULD SEEM TO CONTRADICT PRESIDENT VELASCO'S COMMENT IN HIS INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH THAT THE GOP WOULD NOT PERSECUTE EITHER APRA OR THE COMMUNIST PARTY BUT WOULD COMPETE WITH THEM IN THE POLITICAL ARENA. THIS ACTION AT THE SAME TIME THAT GOVERNMENT HAS MOVED TO CLOSE LEFTIST PUBLICATION MARKA COULD SIGNAL THE BEGINNING OF BROAD POLITICAL REPRESSION. A SECRET AGREEMENT" OF JUST-COMPLETED APRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SESSION PURPORTEDLY CONCLUDED THAT APRA SHOULD EXERCISE "COSED CONFIDENTIAL

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OPPOSITION" TO THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT. PHRASEOLOGY INCLUDED

THE WORDS "WAR TO THE DEATH", PRESUMABLY IN A POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONAL SENSE. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT GOP HAS BECOME AWARE OF APRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECISION EVEN THOUGH THAT CLOSELY HELD.

3. APRA PARTY WILL PROBABLY APPEAL FOR IMMEDIATE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FROM VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ WHO NOW ATTENDING BOLIVIAN INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS ALONG WITH GOP PRIME MINISTER MORALES BERMUDEZ. APRA HOPES THAT ANDRES PEREZ WILL BE ABLE TO INFLUENCE GOP.

4. EMBASSY IS ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE FACTS AND WHETHER GOP MOVES SIGNAL CRACKDOWN ON POLITICAL OPPOSITION.
DEAN

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